

Biennial Report
of the
Trustees and Superintendent
of the
Utah School for the Deaf
and the Blind



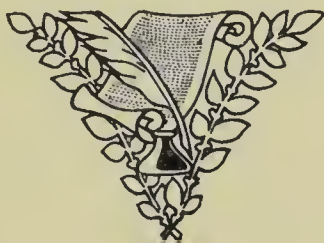
❧ 1931-32 ❧

Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth Years

Biennial Report

of the

*Utah School for the Deaf
and the Blind*



1931-1932

PRINTING DEPARTMENT
OF THE SCHOOL

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

To His Excellency,
Hon. George H. Dern,
Governor of Utah.

Dear Sir:-

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I herewith present to you the report from the Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind for two years ending June 30, 1932. Your attention is respectfully directed to the reports of the superintendent, the physicians and the executive secretary for the adult blind, and the superintendent of the work shop for the blind which appear as a part of this document.

The members of the board find a great deal of pleasure in serving the state as trustees of this splendid institution. To see little deaf and blind children come into the school and awaken intellectually, to watch them develop into young men and women under the guidance and supervision of skilled teachers, and then to know that they meet life and its perplexities successfully, fills our hearts with gratitude. Seeing the school and its work, knowing the conscientious efforts put forth by the teachers and the entire staff, we have no hesitancy in approving the establishment and generous maintenance of this worthy school for the care and education of the deaf and blind children of our commonwealth.

We are delighted to note that there is a decrease in the number of blind children entering school, and that the enrollment for the deaf, at least, shows no increase.

We wish to commend the teachers and employees for voluntarily consenting to a reduction of ten per cent of their salaries following your letter, outlining your proposed plan for economy. Our teachers and employees are none too well paid and for them to take willingly and voluntarily a reduction is most commendable.

The finances of the school have been well and carefully managed, and a policy of rigid economy is constantly exercised. Our revenues from the land funds have dropped several thousand dollars. Additional revenues from our non-resident pupils will help in part to meet this deficiency.

The excellent progress which the school has made during the past two years is most gratifying and reflects credit

upon the efficient work of the superintendent and the entire staff of teachers and employees of the institution.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Clarence Neslen,
President.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

To the Board of Trustees,

Mr. President and Members:-

It is a pleasure to submit my sixteenth biennial report of the work of the Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind, together with financial statements covering the period from July 1, 1930 to June 30, 1932. Appended to this report are those of the physicians, the executive secretary for the adult blind, and the superintendent of the work shop for the blind.

Health

The health of the children of the school has been unusually good during the past two years. There has been very little sickness and we have had no serious epidemics.

We had the misfortune to lose one of our older blind girls, Ruth Badger, nineteen years of age, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Badger of Hinckley, Utah. Her death occurred March 8, 1931, due to pneumonia. This was the first death in the ranks of the school for the blind since its establishment in 1896.

Attendance

The following tabulation of the enrollment of pupils in both schools shows a slight decline in the number of blind children and no increase in the number of deaf children in school.

School for the Deaf				School for the Blind			
Year	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Grand Total
1915-16	73	60	133	17	19	36	169
1916-17	66	57	123	19	21	40	163
1917-18	63	53	116	17	22	39	155
1918-19	62	53	115	10	22	32	147
1919-20	71	57	128	14	20	34	162
1920-21	70	63	133	14	24	38	171
1921-22	64	60	124	14	20	34	158
1922-23	69	60	129	14	20	34	163
1923-24	63	53	116	12	18	30	146
1924-25	69	55	124	18	14	32	156
1925-26	62	49	111	20	12	32	143

1926-27	61	52	113	19	15	34	147
1927-28	61	48	109	20	13	33	142
1928-29	57	52	109	20	12	32	141
1929-30	64	53	117	18	11	29	146
1930-31	70	52	122	19	16	35	157
1931-32	80	50	130	17	12	29	159
1932-33	81	50	131	15	10	25	156

During the last four years we have received, in the school for the deaf, forty pupils who have become deaf from spinal meningitis. The growing prevalence of this disease threatens to continue to add to our enrollment for a number of years.

Graduates

The following young men and women have completed the high school courses and have been awarded diplomas:

Utah School for the Deaf

1931

Katie Billeter.....	Salt Lake City
Lillian Fowkes.....	Evanston
Frank Fullmer.....	Orangeville
Jennie Holton.....	Ogden
Helen Woods.....	Salt Lake City

Utah School for the Deaf

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Lucy Billeter.....	Salt Lake City
Arvel Christensen.....	Ogden
Sherwood Messerly.....	Ogden
Earl Smith.....	Wellington
John White.....	Salt Lake City

Two other deaf young people have successfully passed the required examinations for entrance to Gallaudet College, the National College for the Deaf at Washington, D. C. They are now enrolled in this great institution and acquiring themselves with credit.

Dolores Atkinson.....	Evanston
Joseph Burnett.....	Ogden

Utah School for the Deaf

The Utah School for the Deaf continues to hold a high place among the foremost schools for the deaf in America.

The educational advantages it offers to students, the successful accomplishments of its graduates, the excellence of its teaching staff and its buildings, equipment and campus are quite the equal of the best schools for the deaf of our country.

It is a pleasure to remind you of the fact that practically all the graduates of this school are today profitably employed. They are useful and happy citizens and a credit to their alma mater and to the State of Utah.

Utah School for the Blind

It is gratifying to report no increase in the number of blind children coming to the school for the blind. This school, while small, is doing most satisfactory work. The pupils are eager to learn and show keen appreciation of the opportunities provided by the state for their care and education. The graduates of the school for the blind frequently continue their education in universities and often become independent and influential members of the communities in which they live.

The Adult Blind

Accompanying this report you will find a detailed account of the activities of Mr. Murray B. Allen, executive secretary of the adult blind. It would be hard to estimate the value of the work being done by Mr. Allen thruout the state as well as at the Work Shop for the Blind in Salt Lake City. It is a genuine satisfaction to visit the work shop where blind men and women, singing as they toil, are enabled to fill lonely hours with work and, at the same time, to earn.

Summer Schools

I desire to commend heartily the teachers of both schools for their continued attendance at summer schools and for their eagerness to pursue university extension courses of study. At the opening of school this session, seven of these teachers presented credits for summer school and extension courses. This is most gratifying. Teachers who continue to improve themselves are surely better teachers. They are student-minded and consequently give more effective service. My hope is that this good work may continue indefinitely to the betterment of our teachers, our pupils and our school.

Financial Comparisons

The following figures covering the past nine biennial periods are here presented:

Year	Misc. Receipts	Land Fund	Appropriations	Total
15-17	\$16,343	\$28,891	\$154,200	\$199,434
17-19	18,345	26,404	131,523	176,272
19-21	23,574	33,693	152,900	210,167
21-23	21,849	33,710	139,900	194,459
23-25	13,474	32,482	131,890	177,848
25-27	15,952	43,385	129,400	188,732
27-29	20,691	38,342	135,753	194,786
29-31	20,618	36,259	141,700	198,516
*31-33	22,000	20,000	142,000	184,000
Average	19,205	32,575	139,919	191,568

*Estimated

The average number of pupils in these nine bienniums is 309, therefore the average per capita cost over these eighteen years will be \$610.

Financial Statement

July 1, 1929 to June 30, 1931

	Appropriation	Fees	Expended	Balance
Salaries	\$126,400	\$5306.72	\$131,706.72	\$.00
Office	2,400	385.80	2,785.80	.00
Travel	900	315.94	1,215.94	.00
Maintenance		49,736.98	49,736.49	.49
Repairs	5,000	381.18	5,381.18	.00
Equipment	7,000	700.00	7,689.44	10.56
Utah Commission for Adult Blind	12,000	10,941.28	22,900.26	41.08

July 1, 1931 to June 30, 1932

	Appropriations	Fees	Expended	Balance
Salaries	\$126,000		\$63,151.28	\$62,848.72
Office	2,400		1,354.14	1,045.86
Travel	900		293.54	606.46
Maintenance	5,000	11,429.53	21,255.08	*4,825.55
Repairs	5,000		2,168.52	2,831.48
Equipment	2,700		1,677.67	1,022.33
Total	\$142,000	\$11,429.53	\$89,990.23	\$68,354.85

*Overdraft

Utah Commission
for Adult

Blind \$ 12,000 \$ 4,086.85 \$10,293.37 \$ 5,393.48

Budget

Our biennial budget for the years 1933-35, as submitted to the governor, is here presented:

Salaries	\$134,604
Office	2,970
Travel	900
Maintenance	46,440
Repairs	5,000
Equipment	5,000
Total	\$194,914
Less Estimated Fees	48,000
Net	\$146,914

Our Land Fund interest and rentals have decreased approximately \$8,000.00 in the last year. If these do not increase there will be a loss of approximately \$16,000.00 for the biennium 1933-35. This accounts for the increase in our budget for the next two years.

Utah Commission for Adult Blind

Salaries, Supplies, Travel	\$22,400
Less Estimated Fees	10,000
Net	\$12,400

Conclusion

Finally may I express my warm appreciation to you for the interest you have taken in the school and its progress. May I also add a word in praise of the loyalty and devotion of the entire staff upon whom we depend for whatever of success we have achieved in the past two years.

Frank M. Driggs,
Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIANS

Mr. Frank M. Driggs, Superintendent,
Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind,
Ogden, Utah.

Dear Sir :-

As attending physicians of this institution, it is with pleasure we present the following report of major cases at the school hospital for the past two years:

Fractures	11
Dislocations	4
Acute endocarditis and Pneumonia	1
Circumisions	2
Influenza	27
Scarlet fever	2
Tonsillectomy	12
Whooping cough	8

Very truly yours,
H. E. Robinson, M. D.
Le Roy Pugmire, M. D.
Physicians.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BLIND

Salt Lake City, Utah.
November 25, 1932.

Mr. Frank M. Driggs, Superintendent,
Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind,
Ogden, Utah.

Dear Sir:-

Since my biennial report for 1929-30, the work for the adult blind has moved into a new phase. Owing to the economic stringency, most blind persons have suffered through either the loss of their own incomes or unemployment in the families in which they live. As a result, relief and social welfare work has claimed much of my attention. A relief law passed by the 1931 Legislature made it possible for some counties to care for their needy blind directly through public funds which were disassociated from charity. In Salt Lake and Weber Counties, through co-operation with the established relief agencies, all blind persons who were in want were cared for. About one hundred tons of coal were distributed free or at cost of freight. \$750 worth of groceries and vegetables were likewise placed in needy homes. Used clothing to the amount of 400 articles was also supplied. Relief organizations recognize this department as the natural and authorized channel through which public assistance may be handled officially.

The relief law has aided in some manner perhaps 28 persons. As nearly as I can ascertain, \$5,250 has been expended by counties in this way. Utah County has opened a special roll for the needy blind, rating them similarly with the aged and widows instead of paupers. In their budget for 1933, the Utah County Commissioners have set up a fund of \$1,000 for this purpose. Cache County has removed its blind from the pauper rolls but has not made special allowances. Salt Lake County has accepted several blind persons for aid without stigma of charity. A petition sponsored by this office and the Salt Lake Lions Club for a special allocation in the 1933 budget has been presented and favorable action is expected. In smaller counties where there are only one or two blind, the commissions have given aid without demanding the usual property assignment and pauper rat-

ing. During the past two years, I have visited all county commissions concerned and have been met with sympathetic interest and active co-operation. I plan to submit to you for your consideration an amendment to the law which will ask the 1933 Legislature to make an appropriation to match county disbursements in this department and also place the supervision and administration of the law directly under the control of the Board of Trustees of the Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind, the only officially constituted board that can accept this responsibility. With your approval, I shall present the measure to the forthcoming Legislature.

Utah is not advantageously situated for industrial placement work. We have few factories. The large employers like the mines, mills, smelters, and railroads require physical examinations for all employees, which precludes the blind. Plants of smaller scope do not have the special, repetitive work necessary for blind placement. However, I have been able to find employment for several. Through the influence of many friends in the State Senate, I was able to obtain the position of chaplain for that body for one of our men. Permanent orchestral engagements for two blind youths have also been secured with this office and are beginning to obtain financial results. Handicraft training has enabled some men and women to earn small amounts in that line.

Mention should be made of the co-operation and practical assistance rendered through the Department of Rehabilitation supervised by Mr. Mosiah Hall. With funds provided by his office, we have trained two blind women in poultry culture and have enlisted the aid of the local Lions Club to establish them in business. A man in Salt Lake City was similarly set up in the poultry business. Mr. Hall has also advised with me in the matter of college work and has aided six young men in courses in law and business. One of these trainees, Arnold Roylance of Springville, has been graduated and has opened an office in his home town. Already he is beginning to receive cases and has entered actively into the political and legal life of his county. Mr. Hall has taken me on many of his official trips through the state to confer with him on the rehabilitation of the blind. Without his financial aid, many of our young men and women could not have been trained.

I have continued my educational work in both home and class instruction. Regular classes are held at Salt Lake City and Ogden and arrangements are made for a group at Provo in a room of the City and County Building there. Home work in Braille attracts many students. Old and young are demanding the right to read for themselves. Braille has become so universally popular throughout the world that most blind people of any intellectual bent endeavor to read it. Formerly it was a matter of hard proselyting and slow conversion. Now most blind people know of its benefits and are eager to read. Senator Reed Smoot of Utah was instrumental in obtaining a federal grant of \$100,000 a year to print Braille and Moon Type books and this has enlarged the reading possibilities for all classes of readers. Braille claims most of my attention in class work. Grade two of that system is now accepted in all quarters and many of the long-time readers are now coming for instruction in that advanced form. I have also had pupils in type-writing, Spanish, English, and history. Some students in the University and in the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind turn to these classes or to individual meetings for coaching in these pursuits. I have coached in German, geometry, history and English.

An appealing case in one of my classes is that of a middle-aged woman who was unable to attend school, although blind from childhood. At an age when most women are settling down to quiet of a grown-up family, this woman is beginning to read her primer and learn to spell first grade words. She studies happily and courageously beside two other blind women each with a college education. Were it not for the opportunities of these classes, she would have likely gone on throughout her life in illiteracy.

I should like, at this point, to repeat my recommendation for an adult school to be held at your institution during the summer months. In my previous report, I said, "As you have shown a keen interest in this matter and suggested using the facilities of the school for the blind during vacation time, I should like to recommend that a summer school be open at the School, giving one month for men and one for women." I could give in groups to better advantage what I try to give peacemeal at the home. A handicraft teacher should be employed and salary for her as well as living expenses for ten men and ten women, each group attending one

month, would be ample. It is possible that adults from other near-by states would be sent to us. I have had inquiries about such a school since my request appeared in the 1931 report. This school would bring distinction to our state, fill a keen need, and become a sort of monument to you in your active desire to enlarge and make useful the lives of Utah's blind adults.

On June 1, 1932, you met with the Auxiliary Committee and President C. Clarence Neslen of your Board. At that time, you were kind enough to re-affirm my status as responsible head of all work for the adult blind. I was given the title "Executive Secretary," instead of "Field Agent." Later you announced this decision to the convention of the Utah Association of the Blind. The result has been good. With all workers and other blind people recognizing the unified organization, I am able to co-relate my work and give point and direction to any constructive plans. Mr. William J. Pedler, shop superintendent, has been particularly co-operative, I am glad to call attention to his report for the biennium. The general morale among all who come into contact with the work and their loyalty to it are conspicuous.

Mr. Pedler's report mentions the removal of the Work Shop to new and commodious quarters at 133 Motor Avenue. This building is the property of the Zion's Security Corporation, a subsidiary of the L. D. S. Church. Concession on rent was made to us through the good offices of Bishop John M. Wells of that church. The shop will serve our needs for the present but will not allow us to expand when better times arrive. I am hopeful that the State may see fit in the near future to erect a shop for us. In such a building, all the interests of the blind, such as industries, social activities, class-work, library, and reading-rooms could be centered. We shall sooner or later need such a home. With funds of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation possibly available for the purpose, the present might be an advantageous time to consider such a building.

I have listed 432 blind persons of all ages in the state. This is an increase in registration of 47 since 1930. The addition comes largely from new discoveries rather than newly blind. Of this number, 33 per cent are in Salt Lake City and 15 per cent in Ogden. There is in Utah one blind person for each 1200 of population, the general average for the United States. There are 45 children on the roll. Those

who are not in school are mentally or physically incapacitated for school work or are too young to attend. There is one blind baby aged ten months, suffering from congenital cataract, representing the third generation in the family to show this defect. Of the deaf-blind, there are five, two being mentally incompetent. The average of one blind person for each 1200 of population in the United States holds true in this state.

In my 1931 report, I said that I had been appointed to a committee for the World Congress of the Blind. In conjunction with Mr. H. Randolph Latimer of Pittsburgh, I have completed the work of this committee, making a survey of blind persons engaged in higher professions. The work entailed a voluminous amount of research but it brings up to date one of the outstanding contributions of America to the advancement of the blind, the encouragement that we give to the professions. The findings will be presented at a gathering somewhere in Europe in 1933.

Representing this state, I attended the World Conference on Work for the Blind at New York City in April, 1931. Although I was not an accredited delegate, I was asked to conduct one of the division meetings, that on social phases of the work. At this meeting, workers from several foreign countries as well as leading American workers gathered to discuss the subject. The contributions that Utah has made to the socializing of the blind were inquired into with interest.

In April of this year, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, at my request, sent to Utah Mrs. Winifred Hathaway for a week's campaign for sight conservation. Mrs. Hathaway lectured and gave demonstrations before clubs, school principals, parent-teacher associations, and public health nurses at Salt Lake and Ogden. She conferred with school superintendents to urge them to inaugurate sight-saving classes in public schools. It is hoped that, when economic conditions improve, classes of this type may be established. Upon the foundations laid by Mrs. Hathaway, I am promoting the idea of these classes at Salt Lake and Ogden.

Besides my prescribed work, I am often called upon to lend unusual assistance. During the period, I have carried through two claims for damages. One was brought to trial

and ended successfully for the blind claimant; the other was settled out of court. I have been asked to obtain hospital care, find more congenial living quarters, make family adjustments in cases of estrangement, and even to transport members of the families of blind men who required hospital attention. One man in particular, adjudged insane was committed to the State Hospital. I was instrumental in having him released and placed in a good home. He has been discharged as a ward of the State. A substantial advance has been made upon his industrial compensation, passports have been secured, and he is being returned to his home in Scotland. This case has occupied me intermittently for the past eighteen months with a total time charge of perhaps 200 hours. The effort is justified, however, for the man is happy, has caught a new grip in life, and is spiritually rehabilitated. These instances show, as I indicated in the beginning, that the duties of the Executive Secretary are becoming more and more those of a professional social case worker.

In closing, may I thank you for the sympathetic interest and constructive criticism and advice that you have accorded the adult work. I am grateful for the encouragement which you have always given and for the confidence in my work which your continued support expresses.

Respectfully submitted,
Murray B. Allen
Executive Secretary

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WORK SHOP FOR THE BLIND

Salt Lake City, Utah
November 23, 1932

Mr. Frank M. Driggs, Superintendent,
School for the Deaf and the Blind,
Ogden, Utah.

Dear Sir:-

Another two year period has rolled around and finds the shop still manufacturing brooms, brushes, rugs, and mops.

The manufacturing of reed furniture has given way to the repairing of the same, although we are making a few pieces for Christmas sale. Generally speaking, we do not make many new pieces.

Rug weaving is moving along nicely and by dividing the work I am able to keep several blind persons partially occupied. Our looms are all in good working condition and make very nice rugs and with the exception of a minor break-down, occasionally, they cause little trouble.

Our brushes and mops move rather slowly but our brooms have done well in keeping six blind persons employed steadily, and for the first time in the three year history of the trade, I am beginning to accumulate a little stock which we should have so that customers may be supplied as soon as orders are placed. And here I want to thank you, Mr. Driggs, for making it possible for the shop to obtain such fine quantity and quality of broom corn. Before this deal was made, it was hard to tell what our next bale would turn out to be because I had to depend upon another man's stock.

The shop is now employing seven blind persons steadily and four partially. These also are blind. In addition, we have Mr. Patterson, a seeing man, the father of one of the blind men, who works the business district as a salesman.

The operation of the shop is now carried on without any other seeing person than myself since the reorganization a few months ago, and the shop is running smoothly enough. I see no sign of friction within.

A little more than a year ago, Mr. Murray B. Allen and I searched Salt Lake City all over to find a new location for the work shop. We investigated more than thirty vacant stores and shops throughout the city, trying to find something light, clean and inexpensive and well located. We finally became suited and moved to 135 Motor Avenue where we have spent a pleasant year. The shop being steam-heated, is much more comfortable than the old home, which had to be heated with stoves.

I very much appreciate the help of Mr. Allen and the Commission who help solve our problems and sincerely thank you, Mr. Driggs, for your thought and aid in our behalf.

Respectfully yours,
Wm. J. Pedler
Shop Superintendent.

